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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/690,111	10/21/2003	Teresa B. Ogletree	8092-135 (184146)	5356
7590	02/25/2005			EXAMINER KOLO, BRIAN A
			ART UNIT 2841	PAPER NUMBER
			DATE MAILED: 02/25/2005	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/690,111	OGLETREE, TERRESA B.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Brian Kolo	2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 October 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/21/2003</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

Specification

Claim 14 is objected to due to indefinite language. Claim 14 recites "the watchband" in line 5. Claim 14 is an independent claim, and there is no prior mention of a "watchband" in the claim. Appropriate correction if required. When amending the specification, applicant should take care not to add any new matter to the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-4,8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinmann (US 4855974) in view of Cornett (US 2998695) in view of Matsumoto (US 5892455).

With respect to claim 1, Steinmann teaches a watch (Steinmann figure 1 elements 10-32) comprising:

an elongated band (Steinmann figure 1 elements 14 and 16) having opposite ends (Steinmann figure 1, note elements 14 and 16 have ends terminating near the watch) an including an internal core of elastic material (Steinmann figure 1 elements 14

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and 16 in light of column 2 lines 1-10), each end of the internal core defining a loop (Steinmann figure 3, note the ends have a loop near the watch); and
band-securing structure secured to the watchcase at opposite ends thereof (Steinmann figure 3 elements 14, 16, and 30), the band-securing structure engaging the ends of the band to secure the band to the watchcase (Steinmann figure 3 elements 14, 16, and 30) such that the band and watchcase collectively defining a closed loop (Steinmann figure 3 elements 14, 16, 30, and 12, note the figure shows the watchcase and band forming a closed loop) for the attachment of the watch to a user's wrist.

Steinmann does not expressly disclose a watch mechanism or watchcase.
Steinmann also does not expressly disclose an outer cover.

Matsumoto discloses watch with a watch mechanism (Matsumoto figure 3 element 26) and a watch case (Matsumoto figure 3 element 23).

Cornett discloses a watch band protector used as an outer cover (Cornett figure 3 element 10) for a watch band.

Steinmann, Cornett and Matsumoto are analogous arts because they all teach improvements in watches.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the teachings of Matsumoto to modify the watch in Steinmann to include a watch mechanism and watch case.

The motivation for doing so would be to drive the watch hands and provide a substrate for the mechanism (Matsumoto column 3 lines 61-66).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the teachings of Cornett to modify the watch in Steinmann to include an outer cover.

The motivation for doing so would be to prevent damage of the watch from extraneous objects (Cornett column 1 lines 9-15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Matsumoto and Cornett with Steinmann for the benefit of driving the watch hands, supporting the watch mechanism, and protecting the watch to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

With respect to claim 2, Steinmann in view of Cornett in view of Matsumoto teaches the watch according to claim 1 (see rejection of claim 1 above), wherein the outer cover is made from a fabric material (Cornett column 2 lines 48-50) and defines gathered portions of the fabric material (Cornett column 1 line 62 states the material is flexible. It is inherent in any flexible material there will be gathered portions. Gathered is defined as to bring things closer to something else (see www.dictionary.com definition

of gathered). When a material flexes, different portions of the material are brought closer together.)

With respect to claim 3, Steinmann in view of Cornett in view of Matsumoto teaches the watch according to claim 1 (see rejection of claim 1 above), wherein opposite terminal end portions (Steinmann figure 3 elements 14 and 16 have terminal ends) of the internal core are reversed upon themselves to defang the loops (Steinmann figure 3 element 16 and 14, note the ends near the watch case fold back upon themselves to form loops).

With respect to claim 4, Steinmann in view of Cornett in view of Matsumoto teaches the watch according to claim 3 (see rejection of claim 3 above), wherein each of the terminal end portions of the internal core is secured in its looped configuration by at least one line of stitching (Steinmann figure 1 elements 17 and 19 and in light of column 2 lines 1-17).

With respect to claim 8, Steinmann in view of Cornett in view of Matsumoto teaches the watch according to claim 3 (see rejection of claim 3 above), wherein the outer cover includes opposite terminal ends (Cornett figure 1 elements 32, 34, 36, and 38) enclosing the terminal end portions of the internal core (Cornett column 2 lines 8-9, the cover encloses the watch band), and wherein the terminal end portions of the outer cover are reversed upon themselves (Cornett column 2 lines 1-9, the originally flat elements 40, 42, 44, and 46 fold over themselves) together with the terminal end portions of the internal core (see rejection to claim 3 above, the internal band also reverses upon itself).

Claims 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinmann (US 4855974) in view of Cornett (US 2998695).

With respect to claim 9, Steinmann teaches a band (Steinmann figure 3 element 10) for securing a watch to a wearer's wrist, the band comprising:

an extensible strip of an elastic material (Steinmann figure 1 elements 14 and 16) forming an internal core portion of the band; and

the internal core portion having opposite ends terminal ends (Steinmann figure 3 elements 14 and 16 have terminal ends) each defining a loop (Steinmann figure 3, note the ends have a loop near the watch) adapted for engagement with an end of a watchcase (the phrase following adapted is functional language and is not given any weight by the examiner).

Steinmann also does not expressly disclose a cover enclosing the core portion.

Cornett discloses a watch band protector used as an outer cover (Cornett figure 3 element 10) for a watch band.

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Steinmann and Cornett are analogous arts because they all teach improvements in watches.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the teachings of Cornett to modify the watch in Steinmann to include an outer cover.

The motivation for doing so would be to prevent damage of the watch from extraneous objects (Cornett column 1 lines 9-15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Cornett with Steinmann for the benefit of protecting the watch to obtain the invention as specified in claim 9.

With respect to claim 10, Steinmann in view of Cornett teaches the watch according to claim 9 (see rejection of claim 9 above), wherein the outer cover is made from a fabric material (Cornett column 2 lines 48-50) and defines gathered portions of the fabric material (Cornett column 1 line 62 states the material is flexible. It is inherent in any flexible material there will be gathered portions. Gathered is defined as to bring things closer to something else (see www.dictionary.com definition of gathered). When a material flexes, different portions of the material are brought closer together.)

With respect to claim 11, Steinmann in view of Cornett teaches the watch according to claim 9 (see rejection of claim 9 above), wherein opposite terminal end portions (Steinmann figure 3 elements 14 and 16 have terminal ends) of the internal core are reversed upon themselves to define the loops (Steinmann figure 3 element 16 and 14, note the ends near the watch case fold back upon themselves to form loops).

With respect to claim 12, Steinmann in view of Cornett teaches the watch according to claim 11 (see rejection of claim 11 above), wherein each of the terminal end portions of the internal core is secured in its looped configuration by at least one line of stitching (Steinmann figure 1 elements 17 and 19 and in light of column 2 lines 1-17).

With respect to claim 13, Steinmann in view of Cornett teaches the watch according to claim 11 (see rejection of claim 11 above), wherein the outer cover includes terminal end portions (Cornett figure 1 elements 32, 34, 36, and 38) enclosing the terminal end portions of the internal core (Cornett column 2 lines 8-9, the cover encloses the watch band), and wherein the terminal end portions of the outer cover are reversed upon themselves (Cornett column 2 lines 1-9, the originally flat elements 40,42,44, and 46 fold over themselves) together with the terminal end portions of the internal core (see rejection to claim 3 above, the internal band also reverses upon itself).

Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinmann (US 4855974) in view of Cornett (US 2998695) in view of Matsumoto (US 5892455) in view of Hesselschwerdt (US 4432654).

With respect to claim 5, Steinmann in view of Cornett in view of Matsumoto teaches the watch according to claim 1 (see rejection of claim 1 above).

Steinmann in view of Cornett in view of Matsumoto does not expressly disclose the band securing structure includes a pair of spaced supports at each end of the watchcase and a retainer received within each of the loops of the band, each retainer secured to one of the pairs of the spaced supports.

Hesselschwerdt discloses a watch with a band securing structure (Hesselschwerdt figure 2 elements 16-18, F,R,N,L) including a pair of spaced supports at each end of the watchcase (Hesselschwerdt figure 2 element F) and a retainer received within each of the loops of the band (Hesselschwerdt figure 2 elements 16-18), each retainer secured to one of the pairs of the spaced supports (Hesselschwerdt figure 2, note element 16 is secured to element F by elements 17 and 18).

Steinmann, Cornett, Matsumoto, and Hesselschwerdt are analogous arts because they all teach improvements in watches.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the teachings of Hesselschwerdt to modify the watch in Steinmann in view of Cornett in view of Matsumoto to include a band securing structure including a pair of spaced supports at each end of the watchcase and a retainer received within each of the loops of the band, each retainer secured to one of the pairs of the spaced supports.

The motivation for doing so would be to simulate a "soldered look" (Hesselschwerdt column 1 lines 64-68)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Hesselschwerdt with Steinmann in view of Cornett in view of Matsumoto for the benefit of simulating a "soldered look" to obtain the invention as specified in claim 5.

With respect to claim 6, Steinmann in view of Cornett in view of Matsumoto in view of Hesselschwerdt teaches the watch according to claim 5 (see rejection of claim 5 above), wherein each retainer has opposite ends received within aligned recesses (Hesselschwerdt figure 4 element 19 in light of column 3 lines 22-23) in the spaced supports of the associated pair of supports.

With respect to claim 7, Steinmann in view of Cornett in view of Matsumoto in view of Hesselschwerdt teaches the watch according to claim 6 (see rejection of claim 6

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above), wherein each retainer includes a central body (Hesselschwerdt figure 2 element 16) having opposite ends and pins (Hesselschwerdt figure 2 elements 17-18) received in opposite ends of the central body, the pins dimensioned for receipt within the recesses in the spaced supports (Hesselschwerdt column 3 lines 22-23).

Claims 1-4,8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinmann (US 4855974) in view of Hirsch (US 4513896) in view of Matsumoto (US 5892455).

With respect to claim 1, Steinmann teaches a watch (Steinmann figure 1 elements 10-32) comprising:

an elongated band (Steinmann figure 1 elements 14 and 16) having opposite ends (Steinmann figure 1, note elements 14 and 16 have ends terminating near the watch) an including an internal core of elastic material (Steinmann figure 1 elements 14 and 16 in light of column 2 lines 1-10), each end of the internal core defining a loop (Steinmann figure 3, note the ends have a loop near the watch); and

band-securing structure secured to the watchcase at opposite ends thereof (Steinmann figure 3 elements 14, 16, and 30), the band-securing structure engaging the ends of the band to secure the band to the watchcase (Steinmann figure 3 elements 14, 16, and 30) such that the band and watchcase collectively defining a closed loop (Steinmann figure 3 elements 14, 16, 30, and 12, note the figure shows the watchcase and band forming a closed loop) for the attachment of the watch to a user's wrist.

Steinmann does not expressly disclose a watch mechanism or watchcase. Steinmann also does not expressly disclose an outer cover.

Matsumoto discloses watch with a watch mechanism (Matsumoto figure 3 element 26) and a watch case (Matsumoto figure 3 element 23).

Hirsch discloses a watch band (Hirsch figure 1 elements 1-9) with an elastic inner core (Hirsch figure 1 element 3) and an outer cover (Hirsch figure 1 elements 2,3).

Steinmann, Hirsch and Matsumoto are analogous arts because they all teach improvements in watches.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the teachings of Matsumoto to modify the watch in Steinmann to include a watch mechanism and watch case.

The motivation for doing so would be to drive the watch hands and provide a substrate for the mechanism (Matsumoto column 3 lines 61-66).

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At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the teachings of Hirsch to modify the watch in Steinmann to include an elastic watch band with a cover.

The motivation for doing so would be to include a moisture-resistant band (Hirsch column 1 lines 20-28).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Matsumoto and Hirsch with Steinmann for the benefit of driving the watch hands, supporting the watch mechanism, and including a moisture-resistant band to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

With respect to claim 2, Steinmann in view of Hirsch in view of Matsumoto teaches the watch according to claim 1 (see rejection of claim 1 above), wherein the outer cover is made from a fabric material (Hirsch column 1 lines 62-63) and defines gathered portions of the fabric material (Hirsch column 1 line 65 states the material is flexible. It is inherent in any flexible material there will be gathered portions. Gathered is defined as to bring things closer to something else (see www.dictionary.com definition of gathered). When a material flexes, different portions of the material are brought closer together.)

With respect to claim 3, Steinmann in view of Hirsch in view of Matsumoto teaches the watch according to claim 1 (see rejection of claim 1 above), wherein opposite terminal end portions (Steinmann figure 3 elements 14 and 16 have terminal ends) of the internal core are reversed upon themselves to defang the loops (Steinmann figure 3 element 16 and 14, note the ends near the watch case fold back upon themselves to form loops).

With respect to claim 4, Steinmann in view of Hirsch in view of Matsumoto teaches the watch according to claim 3 (see rejection of claim 3 above), wherein each of the terminal end portions of the internal core is secured in its looped configuration by at least one line of stitching (Steinmann figure 1 elements 17 and 19 and in light of column 2 lines 1-17).

With respect to claim 8, Steinmann in view of Hirsch in view of Matsumoto teaches the watch according to claim 3 (see rejection of claim 3 above), wherein the outer cover includes opposite terminal ends (Hirsch figure 1, note the band had terminal ends near element 9) enclosing the terminal end portions of the internal core (Hirsch figure 1, the outer cover encloses the watch band), and wherein the terminal end portions of the outer cover are reversed upon themselves (Steinmann figure 3 element 16 and 14, note the ends of the watch band near the watch case fold back upon themselves to form loops) together with the terminal end portions of the internal core (see rejection to claim 3 above, note in this configuration, the band in Steinmann is replaced with the band in Hirsch).

Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinmann (US 4855974) in view of Hirsch (US 4513896) in view of Matsumoto (US 5892455) in view of Hesselschwerdt (US 4432654).

With respect to claim 5, Steinmann in view of Hirsch in view of Matsumoto teaches the watch according to claim 1 (see rejection of claim 1 above).

Steinmann in view of Hirsch in view of Matsumoto does not expressly disclose the band securing structure includes a pair of spaced supports at each end of the watchcase and a retainer received within each of the loops of the band, each retainer secured to one of the pairs of the spaced supports.

Hesselschwerdt discloses a watch with a band securing structure (Hesselschwerdt figure 2 elements 16-18, F,R,N,L) including a pair of spaced supports at each end of the watchcase (Hesselschwerdt figure 2 element F) and a retainer received within each of the loops of the band (Hesselschwerdt figure 2 elements 16-18), each retainer secured to one of the pairs of the spaced supports (Hesselschwerdt figure 2, note element 16 is secured to element F by elements 17 and 18).

Steinmann, Hirsch, Matsumoto, and Hesselschwerdt are analogous arts because they all teach improvements in watches.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the teachings of Hesselschwerdt to modify the watch in Steinmann in view of Cornett in view of Matsumoto to include a band securing structure including a pair of spaced supports at each end of the watchcase and a retainer received within each of the loops of the band, each retainer secured to one of the pairs of the spaced supports.

The motivation for doing so would be to simulate a "soldered look" (Hesselschwerdt column 1 lines 64-68)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Hesselschwerdt with Steinmann in view of Hirsch in view of Matsumoto for the benefit of simulating a "soldered look" to obtain the invention as specified in claim 5.

With respect to claim 6, Steinmann in view of Hirsch in view of Matsumoto in view of Hesselschwerdt teaches the watch according to claim 5 (see rejection of claim 5 above), wherein each retainer has opposite ends received within aligned recesses (Hesselschwerdt figure 4 element 19 in light of column 3 lines 22-23) in the spaced supports of the associated pair of supports.

With respect to claim 7, Steinmann in view of Hirsch in view of Matsumoto in view of Hesselschwerdt teaches the watch according to claim 6 (see rejection of claim 6

above), wherein each retainer includes a central body (Hesselschwerdt figure 2 element 16) having opposite ends and pins (Hesselschwerdt figure 2 elements 17-18) received in opposite ends of the central body, the pins dimensioned for receipt within the recesses in the spaced supports (Hesselschwerdt column 3 lines 22-23).

Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinmann (US 4855974) in view of Cornett (US 2998695) in view of Maturaporn (US 6000408).

With respect to claim 14, Steinmann teaches an elongated band (Steinmann figure 1 elements 14 and 16) having opposite ends (Steinmann figure 1, note elements 14 and 16 have ends terminating near the watch) adapted for engagement with band securing structure of a watch (the phrase following adapted is functional language unrelated to the structure and is given no weight by the examiner); and

a watchband (Steinmann figure 1 elements 14 and 16) comprising an internal core of an elastic material (Steinmann figure 1 elements 14 and 16 in light of column 2 lines 1-10).

Steinmann does not expressly disclose the watchband having an outer cover.

Steinmann also does not expressly disclose a hair band comprising internal core of an elastic material and an outer cover.

Steinmann also does not expressly disclose matching the colors or patterns of the watch and hair bands, however, it is commonly known to match wearing apparel to coordinate dress such as the color of one's shoes coordinating with the color of ones shirt or watchband.

Cornett discloses a watch band protector used as an outer cover (Cornett figure 3 element 10) for a watch band.

Maturaporn discloses a hair band with an internal elastic core (Maturaporn figure 1 element 12) and an outer cover (Maturaporn figure 1 element 11).

Steinmann, Cornett and Maturaporn are analogous arts because they all teach improvements in apparel articles (apparel articles is a broad category, however, this is the specified subject of the claim).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the teachings of Cornett to modify the watch in Steinmann to include an outer cover.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the teachings of Maturaporn to create an apparel set with the watch from Steinmann in view of Cornett. It is well known to wear both a watch and a hair band. It is also well known to coordinate the color or patterns of apparel in ones dress.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Matsumoto and Cornett with Steinmann for the benefit of protecting the watch to obtain the invention as specified in claim 14.

With respect to claim 15, Steinmann in view of Cornett in view of Maturaporn teaches the set of articles of claim 14 (see rejection of claim 14 above), wherein the outer cover of each of the watchband and the hair band are made from a fabric material and define gathered portions of the fabric material (Watchband: Cornett column 2 lines 48-50 and Cornett column 1 line 62 states the material is flexible. It is inherent in any flexible material there will be gathered portions. Gathered is defined as to bring things closer to something else (see www.dictionary.com definition of gathered). When a material flexes, different portions of the material are brought closer together.) (Hair band: Matsumoto figure 1 element 11).

With respect to claim 16, Steinmann in view of Cornett in view of Maturaporn teaches the set of articles of claim 14 (see rejection of claim 14 above), wherein the outer covers of the watchband and hair band present identical patterns (It is commonly known to match wearing apparel to coordinate dress such as the color of one's shoes coordinating with the color of ones shirt or watchband).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Kolo whose telephone number is (571) 272-7953. The examiner can normally be reached on M-R 7AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kammie Cuneo can be reached on (517) 272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

bak



RANDY GIBSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER